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## The Die Varieties of the Nesbitt Series of United States Envelopes.

By VICTOR M. BERTHOLD.

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### INTRODUCTION.

"Variety is the spice of Life". This aphorism, if applied to collectors of the dies of the early United States envelopes, changes with kaleidoscopic rapidity into: "Varieties are the bane of collectors". The truth of this statement is borne out by the fact that, though the die varieties of the Nesbitt issues are one of the most interesting phases of American philately, the amount of our knowledge concerning them is surprisingly small.

If we recall that many of these dies have been in existence for half a century, embracing all issues prior to 1870, and thus, in comparison with modern issues, are hoary with age, that they have been collected for decades by ardent lovers of United States envelopes, our surprise is heightened.

The honor of the first attempt at describing the various Nesbitt die varieties and making this knowledge public property belongs to an English philatelist of rare ability, the late Gilbert Harrison. While this confers great credit upon the latter, it is an humiliation to American philatelists that this page of our own history was left to be written by an English student. Even so, this work\* did not appear until fully forty years after the Nesbitt dies were first issued.

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\*The—Nesbitt Stamped Envelopes—and Wrappers—of the—United States of America,—with descriptions of the varieties of the dies,—and fifteen full-page illustrations—by—the late Gilbert Harrison.—Edited and completed—by—E. D. Bacon.—Published as a supplement to the "London Philatelist",—by M. P. Castle,—Vice-President of the Philatelic Society, London,—1895.

It is, likewise, true that Messrs. Tiffany, Bogert and Rechert in their "Historical Notes"\* undertook to rescue the Nesbitt die varieties from an ignominious oblivion, and for this they are also entitled to praise, but up to the most recent time, the great body of collectors did not possess a guide-book, a "Philatelic Baedeker," which would enable the timorous traveler to proceed into the unknown country with a feeling of perfect safety.

Naturally the question arises: What is the reason for this state of affairs? Why have the Nesbitt die varieties been relegated to an entirely unmerited obscurity?

Unless I am greatly mistaken the answer is that the large majority of collectors believed the subject to be fraught with difficulties. Add to this both the lack of a catalogue and of any systematic exposition of the early die varieties, and it is easy to comprehend why the bugbear has continued to the detriment of United States philately.

However, thanks to the good services of the Scott Stamp & Coin Co., and the J. M. Bartels Co., this wrong impression has been largely removed and the future collector of the Nesbitt dies has a rich and inviting field now open for his favorite pursuit. Moreover, henceforth no collection lacking these important die varieties can lay a claim to a full degree of completeness, and this remark refers equally to those who collect entire envelopes or cut square specimens. Indeed, of the two the latter is by far the larger gainer, because these varieties appear on comparatively few "knives" or shapes of envelopes.

Assuming that not many collectors, either young or old, have busied themselves with die varieties a few remarks about the method or way of studying them, gained from practical experience, may not be out of place.

Of course, I do not intend to give specific rules here. These will be in order as soon as we take up a special issue.

It is true that die varieties may be found in half a dozen different ways, but it is equally plain that if we can use a uniform method, applicable to all, we shall be far better off. Although this fact is self evident, such a method was unknown when the writer commenced the study of the Nesbitt die varieties. Recognizing, however, the value of some simple means, various methods were pursued until, after numerous disappointing failures, the solution of the problem was found by means of line prolongation and the use of a unit distance measurement.

As in redrawing a die the engravers of the Nesbitt envelopes have endeavored merely to reproduce the stamp in its general features, the result is that the spacings between the the letters, the form of the letters, their size, and the size of the entire stamp may all be subject to many changes. Owing to this nonchalant procedure, and referring now to the very first issue, the engravers have left to posterity not less than ten different heads of the "Father of our Country" which can readily be seen on fine specimens. For the same reason there are ten dies of the 3 cent red, commonly known as Die 5 or E, which are further character.

\*The—Stamped Envelopes,—Wrappers and Sheets—of the United States—by John K. Tiffany, R. R. Bogert,—and Joseph Rechert.—A Committee of the National Philatelic Society.—New York—1892.—Published by—The Scott Stamp & Coin Co. Limited.—12 East 23rd St.

ized by the "T" of "THREE" having a long cross stroke. This die was redrawn and the long cross stroke of "T" changed into a short line. The alteration added twenty varieties, among which are some highly interesting and valuable specimens.

Suppose we select the "T" of "THREE" for our starting point and, noting that that letter is found in various positions, slanting to the right or left, or standing nearly vertically, we lay the edge of a fine piece of paper along the outside of the downstroke and thus virtually prolong the "T" line downward. Next we carefully note where that prolongation touches a letter in the lower label. If we find that in a number of dies the line touches the "N" of "CENTS", we have probably established a general class. Continuing our inquiry we may note that the "T" line falls outside of the "N", perhaps touches the "T" or may even cut the "S" of "CENTS"; a clear indication that we have other die varieties.

The above, I believe, illustrates sufficiently what is meant by a system of line prolongation.

Another great help is furnished by the use of a uniform distance measurement. For convenience take ten millimetres and, setting a divider at that distance, commence with the "T" of "THREE", selecting as our starting point the left end of the horizontal cross stroke of "T". Assume that, in our first specimen, the end of the ten millimetre line touches the end of the first "E", in the second it may fall between the two "E"s, while in a third the same distance reaches outside the final "E". In this simple and comparatively easy manner, we have ascertained three important classes.

Knowing our main classes, the next step is to study a number of dies of the same general class for sub-varieties, using again one or both of the methods with which we are now well acquainted.

In this manner order is brought out of apparent confusion, and if we work carefully, and are willing to have a little patience, the final success will pay well for all our trouble. Indeed the mental training gained by this work is very valuable and will assist us greatly in the knowledge of other stamps or dies.

So far I have not spoken of the various forms of watermarks employed by Nesbitt, nor of the tresses, or seals, found on the flaps. These are of importance to the collector of entire envelopes, but are a negligible quantity for those who prefer to get the die varieties as cut square specimens.

As it is evident that the purpose of the present work is to enable the great body of collectors of United States stamps to become well acquainted with the early Nesbitt varieties, hitherto considered the exclusive property of the specialist, I suggest to the powers that supply our need in the way of stamp albums to prepare a couple of extra pages, showing the die and its main varieties. A friend of the writer, an enthusiastic collector of cut square specimens, has adopted this plan and it is certain that if any of our readers had an opportunity to see how attractive and interesting these pages appear, they would not hesitate to do likewise.

Perhaps this suggestion will be heeded by the album publishers. If so, there will soon spring up special groups of collectors of the early Nesbitt Die Varieties.

In conclusion I desire to express to Messrs. J. M. Bartels, Edward H. Mason and Geo. Rauh, all of Boston, my sincere thanks for the valuable aid which they have rendered me in preparing this work.

Mr. Bartels has worked with me continuously in my investigations into the intricacies of these dies; Mr. Mason has placed his grand collection of United States envelopes unreservedly at my disposal, besides aiding me in many other ways, and it is to Mr. Rauh that I am indebted for the very fine and conscientiously executed drawings of the various heads of this series.

VICTOR M. BERTHOLD.

Boston, Mass.

Feb. 1905.

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#### THE 1853-55 SERIES.

It is strange that the Yankee, who is generally so quick witted in all matters pertaining to trade and commerce, has been comparatively slow in recognizing the value of the stamped envelope for business purposes. As a matter of fact, the famous Mulready and its numerous caricatures had been used in Great Britain for nearly a dozen years when the Thirty-second Congress, on Aug. 31, 1852, authorized the issue of stamped envelopes in the United States.

The next we hear of the matter is a short line in the Report of the Postmaster-General, dated December 4, 1852, which reads: "Such envelopes as are authorized are now in preparation and will soon be issued," and, in February of the following year, the *Scientific American* mentions the interesting news that "G. F. Nesbitt has shown to the Postmaster-General an embossed stamp for prepaid envelopes which has been accepted, and the manufacture will at once proceed. Such, however, is the labor and care required for their production, that none will be ready for delivery before the middle of next April."

The much heralded novelty of the Post Office finally appeared July 7, 1853. At least, this date is certified to by the National Intelligencer of the *Washington Journal*, which, in describing the envelopes just sent out for distribution, states: "they are as yet but of a single size and of the three cent value." It also adds that the addition of the Nesbitt seal is an outrage.

Without entering into further details, it is of general interest to note that, up to 1869, Geo. F. Nesbitt & Co., of New York, continued to furnish the United States Post Office Department with envelopes.

Recalling the fact that Nesbitt originated the dies; that the machinery for embossing was very crude compared with our modern apparatus, collectors must concede that his work deserves great credit.

The question, however, of superlative interest to philatelists is: why has Nesbitt produced such a large number of dies or die varieties? The answer is simple: Pressed hard by the Department to manufacture

several millions of envelopes, a gigantic task in the early days of stamp making, and lacking our present means of reproducing working dies from the matrix, he undoubtedly used his best effort; i.e. he probably ordered a number of engravers to reproduce the original die, and, in the hurry of the work, little attention was paid to exactness. This would seem a very plausible explanation, and in the absence of any official data let us permit the above assumption to stand.

Whatever may be the facts in the case, one thing is certain; the varieties exist and have been a source of trouble to many collectors of United States envelopes. With wider knowledge and on better acquaintance, it is certain that in future they will prove a most interesting branch of United States philately.

#### DIE I.

Short labels with curved ends close to the letters.  
10 loops in left side ornament and 9 in right.



#### TEN HEADS—TWELVE VARIETIES.

In accordance with the instructions of the United States Postal Department, the first issue of United States envelopes was to represent a profile of General Washington after Houdon's famous bust. No doubt the spirit of the engraver was willing, but the "flesh was woefully weak." Indeed, it is no exaggeration to affirm that the head, or heads, of Die I (or A) are as far from Houdon's masterpiece as the sun is from our planet. Moreover, on a close inspection we find a lot of curious and noteworthy details which seem to indicate that the artist, or artists, had peculiar ideas of the manly beauty of the "Father of our Country."

Certainly, various national types are represented and the expression runs the gamut of meekness, aggressiveness, stolidity, stupidity and boozy hilarity. As a rule an artist would be satisfied to ornament the eye of his subject with one eyebrow, but several of the profiles of Die 1 have two, and in a position which would bewilder the student of anatomy. Another startling feature is the sidelock, which sometimes grows upon the eyebrow. And finally we are forced to conclude that the tonsorial artist who attended Washington performed queer tricks. In one die one-half of the head appears void of hirsute covering. Well, perhaps this was the summer season! I must not forget to mention that on one side of the nostrils appears a Phrygian cap, probably an indication of the republican spirit of the United States. In conclusion the writer recalls a good joke by a gentleman prominent in philatelic circles. After a perusal of the above paragraphs he expressed himself that the bust of Washington of Die 1, instead of being "after Houdon" was a "Hoodoo", and there is a great deal of truth in the witticism.

Owing to the antiquity of the first issue of Nesbitt dies, collectors must not expect to find an abundance of mint specimens. Of course they are the exception, but in many used envelopes the head is impressed with sufficient clearness to permit identification, and the cuts accompanying the dies, being photographic reproductions of pen drawings by an artist, will be found a valuable aid. Indeed, as far as the

varieties of Die 1 are concerned, a thorough knowledge of, or acquaintance with, the various heads is necessary to avoid confusion, especially as the inscription in several labels is similar and not unfrequently the lettering is quite indistinct.

If the question is asked why a unit distance measurement is not applied to differentiate these varieties, the answer is that the spacing of the letters of the inscription is nearly alike. Of course the slant of the letters differs. Such differences as are helpful and noticeable will be mentioned. The system of line prolongation, for example, the downward prolongation of the "T" of "THREE", discloses certain groups in the writer's opinion, but the differences obtained thereby are not of sufficient practical value for establishing groups. For a quick and reliable identification of these varieties an intimate knowledge of the heads is required.

It having been decided to reproduce the heads, the question arose: Shall we draw every feature and every detail, or is it preferable to indicate merely such portions of the face as are different in the various dies? Evidently, many minor points could be omitted without in any way detracting from the usefulness of the drawings. Indeed, the adoption of this plan permitted the artist to emphasize and to bring out more strikingly such features as constitute the real differences.

There are three prominent features in each of the ten heads. The first is the side-lock, which may be either single or double, straight or hooked, short or long. Second in importance is the distance between the end of the side-lock and the ear-lobe. Even a casual observation shows that the distance between the ear-lobe and the end of the side-lock varies greatly; very wide, near and close. The third feature is the lowest front-lock, which, by the taste or art of the die cutters has been, like man, "wonderfully and fearfully made", short or long, thin or full, single or double. In good specimens the eyebrow constitutes a valuable adjunct, and in all dies where this feature plays a prominent part it will be noted. Finally the attention of the collector is directed to the fact that only Head 1 shows Washington with circularly cropped hair, or, as the barber would express it, a "Dutch clip". This head was used for varieties 1, 2 and 3, the first being a rather scarce article. If the student fixes his attention on the above three main features, and does not attempt to get the entire ten heads fixed in his mind at a glance, it will be found that the task of differentiation is not at all a burden even to the youngest collector of cut square specimens. A certain amount of patience is, however, required; likewise a certain amount of willingness to be taught, but the collector possessing these two virtues—and it is one of the crowning glories of stamp collectors to be both studious and patient—will soon have the various Nesbitt heads of Washington engraved upon his memory.

Taking the distance between the end of the side-lock and the ear-lobe as our main feature, the various heads may be grouped into three distinct classes:

- CLASS I. Distance between side-lock and ear-lobe very wide.  
Heads 1a, 3, 4, 6, 7.
- CLASS II. Distance between side-lock and ear-lobe near.  
Heads 1, 2, 8.



CLASS III. Side-lock close to ear-lobe.  
Heads 5, 9, 10.

HEAD I.



I

A long side-lock commences a short distance above the corner of the eye, but stops quite a distance from it. Together with the side-lock commences a heavy lower lock which slants across the ear-lobe, leaving the lower half exposed. There is a considerable space between the end of the side-lock and the ear-lobe. The entire hair ends in a nearly horizontal line. Two folds in the garment on the right side of the neck.



Variety 1:—"CENTS" close to outer oval line. "CE" on level and far apart. "C" quite a distance from curve. "N" and "T" wide apart at base. "S" close to curve. The final "E" of "THREE" is somewhat lower than the first "E", dips to the right, and is close to the curve. "T" of "Three" is also close to curve. Many of the white envelopes are on horizontally laid paper.

Variety 2:—"THREE" near outer oval line. "T" further from curve. "RE" wider apart at top than in Var. 1, and "HR" slightly nearer than in Var. 1. The distance between "EN" and "NT" of "CENTS" is very wide. "S" far from curve. "CE" wide apart.

## HEAD Ia.



## Ia

Same as Head I, but the side-lock is shorter and is further from the ear-lobe.



Variety 3:—"C" is above level of "E", near inner oval line and close to curve. "CE" wide apart. Note that "ENT" is near and "NT" much nearer at base than in Var. 1 or 2. "NTS" is also nearer inner oval line. "TH" of "THREE" is close. The "R" of "THREE" slants to right.

This variety is often seen on white paper horizontally laid.

## HEAD II.



## II

An heavy eyebrow. Two side-locks, of which the first is merely a fine line, commence far from and high above the corner of the eye.



The first side-lock is only half as long as the second ; the latter is curved sharply at its end, and near the ear-lobe. Near the end of the side-lock commences the lowest front-lock, which slants only a little distance across the lobe. Front-lock and ear-lobe resemble the letter "T". Hair is divided into two parts. The lowest lock of the back row is in line with the queue.



Variety 4.—"CENTS" is close to outer frame line and "C" is far from curve. "EN" near; "CE" wide. "NT" wide at base. "THR" near.

### HEAD III.



### III

Side-lock starts some distance from the eye-brow and a little above it. The eyebrow is heavy. The side-lock is long, rather heavy and curved and ends far from the ear-lobe. The main feature is the heavy lowest front-lock, which slants across the lobe but ends in line with it. Side-lock, lobe and lowest front-lock somewhat resemble a figure 1.



Variety 5:—"C" above level of "E": The entire word is high in label, especially "NT". "CE" wide. Note the top of "S" which

almost touches the lower right curve. "TH" wide at top. "R" is nearly vertically placed and in centre of the label. The top of the "T" of "CENTS" is a little above final stroke of "N".

## HEAD IV.



## IV

A heavy eyebrow ends near the middle of the side-lock. The latter is short and stops (as in Head III) far from the ear-lobe. The main feature is that the queue forms a direct continuation of the lowest front-lock.



Variety 6:—"CE" of "CENTS" near. "EN" wide. "NT" wide at base. Note that the upper end of the lower right curve reaches well over the top of "S" and "C" is far from curve. "TH" close. Distance at top of "HR" and "RE" about the same.

## HEAD V.



## V

A very heavy eye-brow. The side-lock starts in line with the corner

of the eye and near the eyebrow ; it curls slightly outward and, following closely the outline of the ear-lobe, ends almost above it. A heavy lock starts near the end of the side-lock, slants across the ear-lobe and ends in nearly a point. This feature distinguishes Head V from Head II, in which the lowest lock ends full and rounded. The queue is continued from the second heavy lock. Note also that the lock immediately behind the side-lock consists of two fine hairs and a heavy third strand.



Variety 7:—"T" of "THREE" below level of "HREE". "CENTS" near outer oval line. "C" and "S" quite a distance from curves. "ENT" spaced nearer than "C" to "E" and "T" to "S".

#### HEAD VI.



#### VI.

An heavy eyebrow. Near its end starts a small side-lock together with a long, narrow lock which slants across the ear-lobe. Note that half of this lock is below the lobe. There is some distance between the side-lock and the lobe. A second heavy strand of hair extends the entire length of the narrow lock and continues into the queue.



Variety 8:—"C" above level of "E" and far from it. "N"

stands vertically and almost in centre of label. "NT" close at top and near at base. "C" and "S" are close to curves. Note that "HR" and "RE" are wide at top.

#### HEAD VII.



#### VII

An heavy eyebrow extends beyond the corner of the eye. A long side-lock starts from the eyebrow and ends far from the ear-lobe. The lowest lock commences near the middle of the side-lock. Along the latter is another strand of hair of the same thickness but it is longer than the first and in line with the queue. The hair consists of two distinct rows, each of which has five locks.



Variety 9:—"CENTS" near inner oval line. "CE" near; "ENT" near; "NT" close at top. "C" and "S" far from curves. "RE" wider at top than "HR".

#### HEAD VIII.



#### VIII

An heavy eyebrow near the corner of the eye. It extends to the

beginning of the side-lock, which is long, slim, almost straight, and ends a little distance from the ear-lobe. Note that the point of the side-lock is not turned up to the left. Together with the side-lock starts the lowest front-lock. It is rather thin, slants across the lobe, and is divided at the end, which is the main feature. Note that it extends but a little distance beyond the lobe. Immediately above the lowest strand is a second one, much longer than the first, forming the commencement of the queue.



Variety 10:—"THREE" high in label. "HR" very close. "CENTS" near outer oval line. Base of "E" a little below that of "C". "EX" wide. "TS" near at base.

#### HEAD IX.



#### IX

The side-lock starts above and far from the corner of the eye. It is short, curves outward towards its end, and terminates a little distance above the ear-lobe. Note that the ear-lobe is larger than usual and extends quite a distance beyond the end of the side-lock. Together with the side-lock commences the lowest bunch of hair, which resembles somewhat a pear, i.e. slim at the start and bulging towards the base. The hair is divided into two rows. The queue is in line with the back row.



Variety 11:—"CENTS" near inner oval line; "C" high, and a little above level of "E". "CE" wide; "ENT" near at top. "S" close to curve. "THREE" close to inner oval line. "HR" and "RE" wide at top.

#### HEAD X.



#### X

An heavy eyebrow starting upward from the bridge of the nose. A second eyebrow is close to the corner of the eye. A long side-lock starts near it and touches the ends in line with the ear-lobe. The hair is divided into two parts, four locks in front and three in the back row. The lowest lock in the front row is by far the heaviest. The hair is cut round similar to Head 1. Note that the queue is in line with the second row of hair.



Variety 12:—"CENTS" close to inner frame line, especially "C".

"THREE" close to inner oval line. "ENT" near at base. The die resembles closely Var. 9 with the exception of "C," which is high in the label.

Before leaving this issue some remarks about the paper and its various tints may be useful. The writer well remembers that when he first took up the study of these envelopes he was often sorely puzzled how to classify a specimen. The general catalogue knows but two shades of paper, white and buff, and is mute on the question of quality.

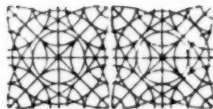
As a matter of fact the quality of the paper used for the first issue varies from soft to a hard, brittle texture, from thin to thick, with a dull or even highly glazed surface. A decided rarity is a kind of wove paper, unwatermarked. We find fine laid lines, the cross lines near or far, and two very distinct varieties of watermarks.

The white paper has sometimes a creamy and at other times a bluish tint, and the buff may be collected in various light and dark shades. The most pronounced shade varieties of buff appear, however, later, and will be mentioned when we study Die 5.

For the benefit of collectors of entire envelopes we will conclude this chapter by adding that:

✕1† Knife 1 appears only in five varieties, i.e. Nos. 4, 6, 7, 8, and 10, while Knife 2, both white and buff, exists in all varieties.

*(To be continued.)*





## A Relic of the Past.

BY THE EDITOR.

We have recently been shown a most artistic and beautifully executed engraving of what seems to us to be an hitherto unknown English essay. At least it may be said to be an interesting relic of the early days of philately and, in the hope that some of our readers may be able to throw some light upon its origin, we reproduce it, in the exact size of the original.

The entire background, including the margins at sides and those at top and bottom to a point which brings them flush with the end ornaments, is black, upon which the delicate, colorless tracery of the top and bottom ornaments shows off to the best advantage possible. The ground of the semi-circular ends of the design proper, and, indeed, of the entire design, is red, with heavy, radiating lines in black and the engine-turned lines in white.

In the uppermost square section of the design the inscriptions "POST PAID" and "BEAUFORT HOUSE" are in white, while the "1d" in the centre is bi-colored, the upper portion of the "1," the lower part of the "d" and the left hand dot below the "d" being black and the balance red.

In the next section below, the inscriptions are also variegated. In "Post" the "P" is in red; the "O" is black with the exception of a small portion of the lower left, which is red; the "S" is also black excepting for a little red on the upper curve, and the "F" is red excepting the extreme left end of the cross bar, which is black. In "PAID" the "P" is red; the "A" black except for a red dot which forms the lower end of the right-hand stroke; the "I" is black, and the "D" red except for a triangular patch of black at the lower, left corner. The "V" and "R" are black except for small, triangular patches about the center of the left stroke of "V" and the curve of the upper portion of the "R"; while the "1d" is white.

In the central section the inscription "BEAUFORT HOUSE" is colored as follows: the "B" is black; "E" red; "A" black excepting that portion of the left stroke below the crossbar, which is red; "U" red excepting that portion which forms the curve of the lower, left stroke, which is black; "F" red; "O" black excepting the lower half of the right side, which is red; "R" red, and "T" black.



Of "HOUSE" the "H" is red except for the lower half of the right hand down stroke and the right vertical half of the upper portion of the same stroke, which are black; "O" is black except the lower half of the right curve, which is red; "U" is red; "S" is black except the lower stroke, which is red, and the "E" is red except a small black patch at the lower end of the vertical stroke. The ornaments at each side of the band bearing the above inscription are red and the small square periods just below them are black.

It was shown to us by the Rev. Raphael Benjamin, M. A., of this city, who relates its history, so far as he knows it, about as follows: In 1859, when he was a small boy, his family were living in London, and the dairyman with whom they dealt also handled second-hand books. It was his custom to tear out the leaves of such imperfect books as he might have and put them over the top of the pats of butter to protect them from dust, etc. Knowing of this practice, this particular boy was in the habit of looking through these discarded books for pictures or stories which the dairyman always gave him if he wanted them. One day he found among the collection what was, evidently, a sample-book showing the different classes of engraving executed by the firm issuing the book. It took his fancy and was given to him by the dealer. Among the samples was the one which is now under consideration, as well as several more, three of which Dr. Benjamin still has in his possession, and he says that he has since seen these three described (or illustrated) as essays.

While we think it highly improbable that this particular design was intended for an adhesive stamp it is not impossible that it may have been intended for use as a wrapper, or newspaper band.

We shall be pleased to hear from anyone who may be able to throw any light upon the matter in any way.



## Some Stamp Designs.

By C. A. HOWES.

(Continued from page 22.)

The next country to claim our attention is one that has been very much in the public eye during the past year, on account of the Russo-Japanese war and the effects which this may have upon its destiny. Twice within a decade has Korea been a cause of war to the Japanese Empire. In 1894 the machinations of China brought about a conflict which resulted in destroying the claim of suzerainty, which had for centuries been insisted upon by China and acknowledged by Korea. Soon after this liberation the King of Korea raised himself and his country to imperial dignity in order that he might be on an equal footing with his brother rulers of Japan and China. In 1904 the machinations of Russia in Korea, as well as her refusal to evacuate Manchuria according to promise, brought on the present conflict whose results may yet succeed in finally extinguishing the independence of the erstwhile "Hermit Kingdom."

Korean historians claim for their country an authentic record of at least three thousand years. The definite starting point is given as the year 1122 B. C., when the sage Ki-tsz (Ki-ja in Korean), exiled from China, came to northern Korea with a band of several thousand Chinese followers and founded, in the present province of Ping-yang a civilized state, where before had been only semi-barbarous tribes living like animals in caves and holes in the ground. Ki-ja took for this new state the name *Chosŏn*, which signifies "Morning Freshness" rather than "Morning Calm." The kingdom grew gradually until at one time it was said to include all the territory between the Liao river, of recent fame, and the Han river, on which is the present capital of Korea.

This old Kingdom of Chosŏn existed for a thousand years, coming to an end finally in 106 B. C., when it was absorbed by China. But, meanwhile, a refugee king of Chosŏn had fled into Southern Korea in 193 B. C., where he found three petty states called the "Han" states, and became ruler of one of them. In the year 57 B. C. another of the Han states formed itself into a kingdom, which later became great and powerful, under the name of Silla. In 36 B. C. a fugitive prince from far north came to northern Korea and succeeded in forming a new kingdom from the Chinese provinces which were the remains of old Chosŏn. This new kingdom he named Ko-ku ryū. Eighteen years later one of his sons went into southern Korea and established the kingdom of Paik-je, which gradually extended until most of southern Korea was divided between it and Silla. Thus, within forty years we have an entirely new political distribution in the peninsula, ushering in what is known as the period of the "Three Kingdoms." They naturally grew jealous of each other, finally fell to fighting and, after about seven centuries of existence, Paikje and Kokuryū were conquered by Silla, with Chi-na's aid; the former fell in 660 A. D. and the latter in 668 A. D. This was the first united Korea, though Silla did not extend north of the Tatong river.

At the beginning of the tenth century a defection in the north resulted in the forming of a new state which was destined to overthrow Silla. In 918 A. D. the name Ko-ryū was adopted for the rising kingdom, and in 935 Silla,

then grown very weak, gave up to its powerful rival. It is this name Koryu which is the origin of our designation for the country. The Portuguese obtained it from the Japanese during their voyages into these regions in the sixteenth century. There being no "k" in Portuguese they spelled it *Corea*, which closely approximates the sound of the native name which is now transcribed by the form Koryu.

This kingdom lasted until the fourteenth century, by which time its government had become so corrupt that it was finally overthrown, in 1392, under the leadership of General Yi, who was persuaded to mount the throne. This was the establishment of the present dynasty and, as is usual with dynastic changes in these Eastern countries, a new name was chosen to mark the event. Thus the ancient name of Choson was resuscitated and became the official designation of the kingdom until October 12-14, 1897, when, as before stated, the King of Kor assumed imperial attributes and raised his country from a kingdom to an empire, renaming it of course, *Tai Han* or the "Han Empire", in remembrance of the *Sam Han* or "Three Han" principalities of two thousand years ago.

This, in brief, is the history of Korea for three milleniums as taken from native annals. It is still a much troubled country and needs a strong hand at the helm. The Japanese are capable of supplying this and are the natural tutors of their Korean cousins. As it seems probable at this writing that the Japanese objectives in the present war will all be gained, we may hope to see later a great improvement in the administration of the country and a brighter future open before it



When Korea emerged from her isolation in 1882 and consented to make treaties with foreign powers, a progressive element endeavored to push her too fast along the road of progress and Western civilization. The Japanese were largely concerned in this and, under their guidance, a postal system was projected in 1884. Stamps of five values were ordered in Tokio, but when the new Post Office building in Seoul was opened by a banquet given there on the evening of December 4, 1884, only two values had been received. These were the 5 and 10 moon stamps pictured above. That very evening, however, was signalized by an attempt of the Progressive party to literally kill all opposition and obtain complete control of the Government. The Chinese and Japanese troops were drawn into the fray, and for the next three days the city was a scene of turmoil, riot and incendiarism, during which the new Post Office was looted and burned and the stamps in stock scattered through the streets. These two values are, therefore, most interesting mementoes of Korea's first attempt at a postal service, which in the end proved to be merely a still born affair. The remaining three values did not arrive until after the *émeute*, as it is known, and therefore can claim no place as issued stamps.

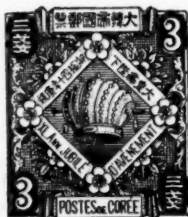
The main feature of the design of these two stamps is the curious figure in the center, which may be described as a bisected target of alternate white and colored rings, each half being opposed or reversed in coloring to the

other. It is only a variation in form of the symbol of "Yang and Yin", that emblem of Chinese philosophy which ascribes all nature to the action of the dual forces represented by the male (light) and female (dark) principles. This has already been fully described in our studies of Chinese stamps, on page 198 of the last volume; for it must be remembered that Korea's arts, sciences and literature were all drawn from the Celestial Empire. The figure in its more usual form, as seen upon the 1895 issue, or better



still, upon the 1900 issue, has been taken as a national emblem, corresponding to a coat-of arms. It is thus used upon the Korean flag—a white banner with the symbol in red and blue, accompanied by four groups of the "eight diagrams", which have also been fully described on page 199 of the last volume. These may be seen on the stamps of the 1895 issue, where the central square is a reproduction of the Korean "coat of arms" which may be seen over the porch of the "Korean Legation, on Iowa Circle, in Washington. The four "diagrams" employed are: (1) in the upper right corner, whose signification is Heaven, or the male principle; (2) in the upper left corner, signifying the sun, or fire; (3) in the lower right corner, which represents water in motion, as clouds, rain, streams; and (4) in the lower left corner, which signifies the Earth, or the female principle.

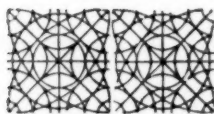
In the four corners of the 1895 issue appear rude representations intended for plum blossoms, which appear singly or in pairs on the 1900 issue in much more recognizable form; in fact, on the 3 cheun stamp the flower is accompanied by leaves and sprays with a couple of small plums on each. This flower appears as the emblem of the present reigning house of Korea. It will be remembered that the dynasty was founded by one General Yi in 1392 A. D., and it happened that the Chinese character used for his name was that for "plum tree"; the plum blossom was, therefore, adopted as the badge of the once royal and now imperial house.



On October 21, 1902, there was issued a special stamp to commemorate the "fortieth year of accession" according to the inscription. Inasmuch as the present Emperor ascended the throne as King on January 21, 1864, it has puzzled very many to account for the forty years. But the discrepancy is due to the peculiarly oriental methods of reckoning time. A friend once wrote me from Seoul: "When anything happens in Korea they call it a

“year 1”, and this can be well illustrated by the case of a child’s age. No matter when he may be born, he is “a year old” during the remainder of that year and “two years old” on his first New Year’s day—which thus becomes every Korean’s birthday. The result is peculiar if the baby arrives on the last day of the year—he is then “a year old” on his *birth* day. The next day is New Year’s and he is then “two years old”, while on his *second* New Year’s day, when we would reckon his age as a year and a day, the Koreans declare he is “three years old.” Now, turning to the accession of the present Emperor as King, on January 21, 1864, it will be seen that 1865 was his second year, 1868 his fifth, 1873 his tenth and so on, making 1897 his 34th. But, on October 12 of this 34th year he assumed imperial dignity and this made a new year, the 35th, of his accession or the first of the new regime. Adding five years to make the 40th year of the accession brings us to 1902, the anniversary occurring on October 18 of that year, reckoning by the Chinese calendar which is still in use in Korea concurrently with the Christian calendar.

The plum blossoms (*yi hoa*) are quite prominent in this design, four occupying the angles of the central diamond shaped frame and four others, surrounded by leaves and fruit, peeping from its sides. The “crown” which is pictured in the center, is a copy of the cap or “toque” formerly worn by the King on state occasions and known as the “Ming bonnet”, it having been the style of head-dress employed at the Court of China during the Ming dynasty (1368-1644). The pin put through it was to pass through the “top-knot”, which is the universal accompaniment of married Koreans and a badge of manhood, to hold the bonnet in place. The “top knot” method of arranging the hair was also copied from the Mings.





## The Imperforate Two Cent Documentary Stamp of the Series of 1898.

By GEO. L. TOPPAN.

My attention was first called to this variety by Col. J. W. George in the summer of 1898. He could furnish me with no particulars regarding it excepting the bare fact that he possessed a block of four and, as I was at that time compiling the book upon the Revenue Stamps of the United States\*, I was forced to be content with announcing the mere fact of its existence in that work,† and it was not until 1904 that the Scott Stamp & Coin Co. included it in their catalogue.

It has always been a source of wonder to me that no one seemed to know anything about the stamps and my many efforts to ascertain their history have always proved futile until now, when, my attention having been called to them by the fact that a block of four was offered in the auction sale held by the J. M. Bartels Co., in Boston, on March 22nd. last and a block of six in the sale, held in New York upon the same date as that of the Bartels Co., by our publishers, I tried again and this time met with success, as the following letter, addressed to a New York dealer (who has never been connected with our publishers in any way) will show :

NEW YORK, March 31st, 1905.

FRIEND——— :

The stamps (one sheet) were purchased by Henry Mannes & Sons at the bank upon the corner of Eighth Avenue and 42nd. Street‡ and were all cut up and used singly on checks with the exception of the irregular block of twenty-nine that I obtained from them. They (the firm mentioned) were then in the furniture business at Nos. 427-9 Eighth Ave. and have since removed to 34th Street.

"A block of six, a strip of three and a pair went to you ; a block of four each to Mr. Andreini, Mr. George, Mr. Miller, of Brooklyn, and myself ; a pair was auctioned off at the Manhattan Club and, after passing through several hands, is finally in the collection of Mr. Blake, of Jersey City.

Mr. Miller sold his, with his collection, to parties in Nassau St., about two months ago and, so far as I know, there have been no other changes in the ownership.

Yours truly,

F. O'KEEFFE."

The block of four sold in Boston recently must have been one of those mentioned above while the block of six was that originally held by the dealer in question and now reposes safely in my own collection. The strip of three and the pair, were sold to Mrs. H. C. Coe and Mrs. Falk.

\*An—Historical Reference List—of the—Revenue Stamps—of the—United States—including the—Private Die Proprietary Stamps.—Compiled by—George L. Toppan, Hiram E. Deats and Alexander Holland.—A committee of the—Boston Philatelic Society.—All rights reserved.—Boston, Mass.—1899.

†Ibid. p. 113.

‡The Franklin Savings Bank.



## Hamburg, Its Postal Service and Its First Postage Stamps.

By JULES BOUVÉZ.

Hamburg, which is to-day the chief city of a free state ruled by a constitution revised on October 13, 1879, was, in the old days, the most important of the four free cities of the German confederation and one of the three hanseatic cities.

Its territory was divided into three parts: The land which surrounded the city; the bailiwick of Bergedorf, situated near the city upon the right bank of the Elbe, and the bailiwick of Ritzebüttel, lying between the mouth of the Elbe and that of the Weser, to the north of the Hanoverian territory of Stade, which separates it from that of Hamburg.

The first postal service of Hamburg owes its creation to a citizen who published, on December 10, 1796, a brochure in which he proposed the establishment in that city of a postal service by means of messengers on foot like that of the "Penny-post" which was then operating in London. This proposition was favorably received by the numerous business men of Hamburg and, on February 15, 1797, a society with a capital of 10,000 marks, divided into shares of 100 marks each, was founded.

The management of this first postal service was confided to Messrs. Koch, Ermble, Gulich and Muller and Herr Diederich Kielmecke was appointed manager at a salary of 1500 marks a year.

The main office, at first established at "Dornbusch", was quickly transferred to the "Zollbrücke" near the exchange. Besides this principal office, secondary offices were established in all quarters of the city and the management of these offices was confided to merchants who received the letters and packages. The postage on a letter was fixed at one shilling (two cents) and that of packages weighing less than one pound at two shillings (four cents).

The carriers were charged with the transportation and distribution, within all the territory of the city, of the letters, with the execution of commissions, which were transmitted to them in unsealed letters; with notices and accounts of all kinds and, on account of the relatively short distance to be traversed to deliver them to the addressee, they made, so to speak, between one and the other (sender and addressee), three deliveries daily, between half past eight in the morning and eight o'clock in the evening, throughout the city and its suburbs.

The service, well organized, was managed from its inception to the great satisfaction of the public. The carriers started out every two hours and, furnished with their bells, traversed all the streets with regularity.

The service "of carriers for the city of Hamburg and its suburbs", as this institution was officially called, had been originally chartered

for but five years; however, the Senate, in consideration of the good service which had been established, consented to prolong its charter at each new demand until 1827.

From 1827 to 1832 the postal service of the city of Hamburg was subjected to many alterations of diverse kinds. In March, 1832, when the city decided to frame the laws regarding the postal service, the service by carriers on foot was merged into the city postal service. The establishment of private enterprises (local posts) in all the territory of Hamburg dates from this time and notable among them are those of Hamer & Co., Th. Lafrenz, H. Scheerenbeck and W. Krautz, who charged themselves with the distribution of letters and printed matter; the carrying of goods of all kinds; the moving of household furniture and other work and commissions. These companies, whose services were paid for under special tariffs, successively adopted postage stamps for the payment of the charges upon shipments which they were charged with transporting.

Of the four above mentioned companies the most important was that of Hamer & Co., which bore the title of "Institut Hamburger Boten"\*\*, and charged one-half shilling for each letter which it handled in the city, this tax being represented either by a postage stamp or a stamped envelope, illustrations of which we show below. They were sold at the offices of the company.



The stamps measure 23x22 mm. and are lithographed in black upon yellow, gray, chamois, rose, bright blue, greenish-blue, deep green and clear green papers. They bear in the center, within a pearled circle, the value ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) surrounded by the inscription: "C. HAMER & CO." In the upper label is "INSTITUT" and in the lower label, "HAMBURG BOTEN."

The envelopes exist upon two colors of paper, white and chamois; they measure 82x193 mm. and the stamp is 26 mm. in diameter. It is printed in white letters upon a vermillion ground. Within a garter, buckled at the lower part of the circle, is "INSTITUT HAM. BOTEN" and, in the centre: "C. HAMER & CO.  $\frac{1}{2}$ ."\*\*

These private enterprises, and with them their postage stamps and foot carriers were suppressed after Dec. 31, 1864 by reason of a decree of Aug. 10, 1864 emanating from the Senate and the burghers. By this decree a great number of letter boxes were established in the city, its outskirts and rural suburbs, not only for local letters but also for international correspondence.

\*Hamburg Messenger Service.

\*\*These stamps are placed among the so-called "Hamburg Locals" which were sold to unsophisticated collectors some years ago at the exorbitant price of 25 cents per set of 116 varieties.—Ed.

## Our Indian Letter.

By E. W. WETHERELL.

BANKS OF THE SHAMSHA RIVER,  
MYSORE, February 4, 1905.

The "philately" of this letter will resemble the currants in the cake which my camp servant makes once a week for "Master", in being conspicuous by its absence, for the most part. We are going through a very bad time in the Philatelic Society of India. The President, who is also editor of the *Philatelic Journal of India*, has gone home on leave; the Honorary Secretary, one of the best all-round philatelists in Asia, is on his way home; and the Honorary Treasurer, the authority on Kabul and Kashmir, will follow shortly. And, somehow, we have to carry on without them. The Vice-President will have to act as President, Mr. Crofton has taken over the posts of Treasurer and Secretary, and your humble servant is having a second spell at the *Journal*. This is the first time in the history of the P. S. I. that all the executive officers have been away at the same time.

Here is a suggestion for a "tea fight" game—give each of the competitors a specimen of the new Jaipur stamp and award the prize to the one who can tell what it represents. Jaipur is the latest state to bring out a stamp of its own and we all hope that its bad example will not be followed, or that Jaipur itself will not insist upon a five rupee value and issue the same perforated, imperforate and rouletted and play any other tricks with it.

Sirmoor is still all the rage and it is wonderful how, within the last year or so, the rarity has increased. Instead of finding half a dozen Sirmoor stamps on most of the sheets circulated in the Exchange Clubs here, it is quite unusual to find any at all. They are certainly a boom, and if any collectors on your side have a good lot of them they will do well.

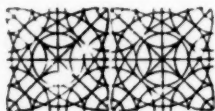
Cochin is another good value state. There are no high value stamps and no speculatives of any sort, and the specialist will find the first issue very interesting. I have been working at them lately and find great variation in many distinct minor varieties. There may be a boom in Cochin some day. Who can tell?

Our long expected and anxiously awaited handbooks are coming out this month. The one on fiscals will give the study of these interesting stamps a considerable impetus. Only British Indian stamps and

those overprinted for use in Native States will be published in the handbook and the *Journal*, as the native printed stamps are not sufficiently well known. Mysore is the only Native State whose issues I have studied, and, as I find about 400 varieties, it is clear that the collecting of fiscals of the Native States of India is a very big undertaking. For some reason, it appears to be very difficult to obtain them in bulk to pick over for varieties, and varieties there are galore, in consequence of the method of production. I have often watched the process of manufacture. First of all, *one* man tries to undo the press. He invariably has to go out and bring in another man, and, between them, they get the thing right. Then the fun begins. After much shouting, gesticulating and general worrying around, a third man is found—he is the paint mixer. He gets a pot of powdered paint and tips some of it out onto a plate—say the paint is pale yellow and he wants orange,—then, as certain as it can be, he has left the key of the red paint cupboard at home. An hour or two elapses and the key arrives, and the red paint is thrown on the yellow. If a coolie is handy he mixes it up a little; if not, it is just run over with a palette and oil and is then ready (*sic*) for application to the plate, which consists of many dies carefully tied together (one or two usually project in front of the others). The paint is spread roughly on a pad, the plate is let down on the pad and raised; then they wait for the paper man, who with much trouble places the paper in exact position. Down comes the press and up goes the paper—it has to be picked off the plate as often as not and is usually smudged. It is then hung on a line to dry, while the printer goes away to tiffin. If there is a wind, of course it falls off the line face downwards on the floor—this is a detail only. Some time during the afternoon another sheet or two may get printed and these are handed over to the perforator, who has a fearful squint, and it takes him a long time to get the perforations right for the first line. Then he goes ahead, but the eyes bother him and the result is poor. After a few weeks work, several hundred sheets are ready and these are sent out in dribblets to the people called “stamp vendors”, who squat on the verandah of a post office and sell a stamp at odd times, but spend most of the day asleep.

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It is a bad thing to let one's thoughts always work in one groove. A well-known lady collector recently wrote to her friends to say that, since her *engagement* had been broken off, her mind had become so completely *unhinged* that she couldn't *stick* to anything.



## Communications.

EDITOR AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHILATELY :

*Dear Sir:*—I desire to bring to the attention of the readers of the A. J. P. certain varieties of Panama stamps which are not mentioned in the reference list which I recently wrote for the JOURNAL. These varieties were described in the *Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal* several months ago but, so far as I could ascertain at that time, they were not known to collectors in the United States, even to those in this city who had close business relations with Panama and had made specialized collections of the stamps. It seemed best to me to refrain from mention of these varieties until I could secure proof of their genuineness. I have now had satisfactory evidence that the stamps are all right. Correspondents have shown me specimens which could be authenticated and other copies on envelopes which had brought letters addressed to business houses in various parts of this country.

The stamps in question were used in Bocas del Toro and are surcharged with the word "Panama" in fancy letters, as illustrated below. The surcharge is handstamped in violet. The first handstamp used in Bocas del Toro was destroyed when the Post Office was burned and this was made to replace it. In the case of the registration stamps all copies which I have seen had the value reduced to ten centavos by manuscript surcharges in red ink.

We therefore add to the list :

### II. ISSUES OF THE REPUBLIC.

#### C. Issued in Bocas del Toro.

s. Surcharged in violet **Panama**

### ORDINARY POSTAGE STAMPS.

Regular Issue of 1892-96 Surcharged



1c green  
2c rose  
10c yellow  
1p lake

## REGISTRATION STAMPS.

Registration Stamps of the Colombian Republic Surcharged



a. With additional manuscript surcharge "10" in red.

10c on 20c red-brown on blue

b. With additional manuscript surcharge "10cs" in red.

10c on 20c blue on blue

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT STAMPS.

Acknowledgement of Receipt Stamps of the Colombian Republic  
Surcharged

10c blue on blue

Very truly yours,

NEW YORK, April 10th, 1905.

JOHN N. LUFF.

WHITMAN, MASS., March 20, 1905.

EDITOR: AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHILATELY.

*Dear Sir:*—I thank you for your courteous reply to my inquiry concerning the Tasmania Railway stamp, and can assure you that the 3d value really exists, albeit uncatalogued. Will send my copy for your inspection should you so desire.

Very little seems to be known about the issue, but from what I have been told these stamps were not strictly Locals, in the usual sense of the word, at the beginning, whatever they may be now. All my copies came from one source, a personal friend who is a post-mistress in a small town, and whose interest in stamps is for my benefit only so that I have found it impossible to get thoroughly official and philatelic data regarding them. When sending the first three values in the fall of 1902 she

wrote they had been issued in consequence of a new ruling of the postal service, whereby newspapers were no longer carried free as they had formerly been. This was objected to by some, (newspaper dealers etc; who sent in packages, as I understood the matter), and so the railways took to carrying the bundles at a less rate, accounting to the postal service for a portion of the cash received and using these stamps to check the accounts. This may not be correct, but was what my friend thought. All I have had have been cancelled "Accountant's Office" in a circle with red or blue ink. In April 1903 she sent me the 3d under discussion, one copy, saying:

"This is just out, but is already retired as we are not using them any longer, for the post office carries the papers again now." I asked for more, but received word this was all she had ever seen, and that all the values were very scarce. This latter seems to be true, for I have a dozen or more correspondents in the island (I formerly lived there) and none can send any or tell me anything about them. However, none are collectors. Perhaps a genuine philatelist could give more in both stamps and information.

With the exception that the stamps were sold "at the station" (evidently meaning railway station) instead of post office, and were used on bundles only, the above is the extent of my knowledge concerning the issues. I cannot even say whether they are still in use, but should think they are not.\*\*\*

These Tasmania varieties surely must have something in their favor, or they could hardly have gained admittance into three of the leading catalogues as postal issues, and I think it would be of general interest if their history was investigated and made publicly known.

Yours truly,

AMY L. SWIFT.

With reference to the above we wish to state that the three pence stamp referred to is duly chronicled this month and, further, that, several months ago Mr. John N. Luff wrote to Mr. Fred. Hagen, of Sydney, N. S. W., requesting him to give what information he could relative to the Railway Newspaper stamps of New Zealand, Queensland and Tasmania.

Mr. Hagen's reply, dated Feb. 25, 1905, is as follows:

"I have received replies from my correspondents in Queensland and New Zealand with reference to the Newspaper stamps.

"My N. Z. correspondent writes as follows: 'Railway Newspaper Stamps are not sold by the Post Offices and can only be procured at a Railway Station; the P. O. Department have nothing to do with them and will not recognize them in any way, the stamps only denote that the carriage has been paid upon the newspapers which are carried at special rates by the Railway Dep't, entirely independent of the Post Office Dep't.'

"My Brisbane correspondent writes practically in the same strain as follows: 'Re your memo. about Queensland Newspaper stamps. These have nothing whatever to do with the Post Office and are only used by newspaper publishers as payment of freight upon parcels of papers sent by rail.'



"My Tasmanian correspondent replied to other items in my letter to him but omitted to reply to the question re Newspaper stamps. I have written to him again, but expect that his reply will be the same as the others; should it be different I will send it along."

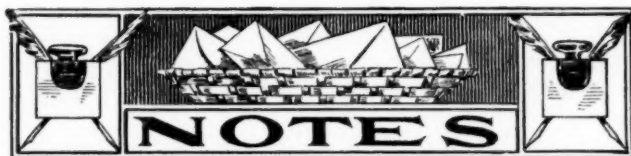
As will be seen by the above, both the Queensland and New Zealand series are hardly to be considered as anything else than freight, or express, franks, having no connection with *Postage* stamps, or rates, in any way. We will add that all we have seen have been cancelled with a check mark, usually in blue pencil.

Curiously enough, just as we go to press we find the following in *The Australian Journal of Philately* for Feb. 16, 1905: "NEW ZEALAND.—Mr. L. A. Sanderson, of Wellington, New Zealand, writes us that a new issue of Railway parcels stamps is in preparation, and he has seen proofs.

If Miss Swift's information is correct it would seem that the standing of the Tasmanian stamps is rather different as, in this case, the Post Office Dep't. receives a portion of the money represented by the stamps in question. Even then, however, if they are used simply to "check the accounts," they can hardly be included as *postage* stamps.

Can any of our readers throw any further light upon the points at issue? If so, we should be glad to have them communicate with us.—Ed.





UNITED STATES.—We have run across several interesting novelties lately. The first is a reprint of the 10c envelope stamp of 1857-60 upon white *wove* paper. Heretofore this has only been known upon the regular paper with the laid lines running vertically instead of diagonally. In this instance, however, while the paper shows a portion of the regular Nesbitt watermark, there is absolutely no trace of a laid line.

Mr. Albert Perrin has shown us the following novelties in the revenue stamps: First, a 2c and a half of a 1c stamp of the 1898 series (the large surcharge upon the regular postage stamps) used together to make up the 2½c rate upon a renewal receipt for a plate glass insurance policy. The receipt is dated "July 24, 1898." Second: a block of four of the regular one cent documentary stamps of 1898 with an exceedingly fine roulette separating the horizontal pairs. It is our impression that we have seen this fine roulette, in combination with the hyphen-hole roulette, upon the 10c documentary, but we are unable to place it at the present writing.



BADEN.—We illustrate herewith the type of the official stamp which we chronicled last month.



BULGARIA:—Mr. C. Witt has shown us a copy of the 5s. of 1901 (our No. 53) in which the date at top reads "1878" instead of "1876". We think it is due simply to poor printing and do not regard it as a *bona-fide* error.



COLOMBIAN REPUBLIC.—BARRANQUILLA ISSUE.—We have discovered a block of twelve of the 10c claret, our number 259, which shows no vertical perforation between the right hand pairs.



COLOMBIAN REPUBLIC.—CUCUTA ISSUE.—Mr. M. D. Senior has shown us the following varieties of this issue: The 20c., our type A72,

with the last word of the upper inscription as in type A71, "*Provisorio*", instead of "*Provisional*". To thoroughly understand this series it should be noted that not only is the upper inscription different but that the value in type A71 is expressed in Roman type while it is in Italics upon type A72.

There are, also, two types of the 10c., our number 206; the "1" of "10" being both with and without a serif. In the latter variety the "1" of "*Provisional*" is always inverted.



CRETE.—We herewith illustrate the new stamps which we chronicled last month :



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.—We have seen the 25c on 5c, blue, our No. 60, of 1883, with inverted surcharge. Also the lately issued 1c on 2c postage due stamp with inverted surcharge.

The *Monthly Journal* adds the following varieties of the recently issued surcharged stamps with the surcharge inverted: 1904, 5c on 50c; 5c on 1p; and 10c on 1p. 1905, in postage due stamp, 1c on 4c and 2c.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

EGYPT.—SOUDAN.—*Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* says that a variety of the lately chronicled "Army Official" stamp exists in which the first "1" in "OFFICIAL" is replaced by an exclamation point (!).

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

GREECE.—Mr. Wm. W. White has shown an horizontal pair of the 50 l of 1891 (our No. 88) imperforate vertically.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

GUATEMALA.—We have seen a used copy of the 100c of 1886, surcharged upon the railway stamps, in which the value at the left and of the inscription below "GUATEMALA" reads: "100c." instead of "100c."

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

MEXICO.—We have seen an horizontal pair of the 18c of 1882, our type A15, imperforate between the stamps.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

NEW ZEALAND.—*Gibbons' Stamp Weekly* says: "We have received the 5d of the Waterloo series printed in a pale shade of sepia instead of the usual red-brown. This new color looks very much like a local printing in the scarce sepia of the London prints of the same stamp. Whether this is a freak like the London sepia or a permanent change we cannot say." The stamp referred to is our type A25.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

NICARAGUA.—The recently chronicled "C5" and "C15" upon the 10c violet were printed in blocks of twenty-five and the same setting was used, the "1" simply having been withdrawn to transform the "15" into a "5". In both values numbers 5, 10, 24 and 25 upon the block of twenty-five, have the character for cents, which precedes the figure, inverted. Of the 15c on 10c illustrated in our January number an error is found reading "CENTVOS" instead of "CENTAVOS."

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

PERU.—We illustrate below the twelve centavos stamp which we chronicled last month.



SERBIA.—We herewith illustrate the type of the new stamps which we chronicled last month.



VENEZUELA.—The *Monthly Journal* lists the following varieties of the provisional stamps of 1903, our type numbers A32 and A33:

K1: Inscribed "DISTRITO MARINO," the entire set with name in smaller type, measuring  $7\frac{1}{2}$  mm in length instead of 9 mm.

The 25c type A33, with the error "COREOS" for "CORREOS;"

We have seen the one bolivar, red violet, of 1893 with the "*Resellada, R. F. M.*" surcharge inverted. The stamp is our catalogue number 140.





**UNITED STATES.**—We have seen a copy of the five cents Baltimore Envelope stamp printed in *red* on manila paper. It is cancelled "*Baltimore, May 17*", in blue ink.

The New England Stamp Co. have shown us a copy of the 3c Post Office Envelope, upon white paper, which, to our great surprise, proves to be from a *Reay* die and not a Plimpton. We have since seen another copy. Both are unused and cut square.

*Postmaster's Provisional Envelope.*

Baltimore, Md.

5c red on manila

*Official Envelope.*

Post Office Dep't.

3c black on white (1873)

**BRITISH GUIANA.**—Several of our contemporaries announce the appearance of another of the current series on the new paper.

*Adhesive stamp.*

Watermarked Multiple Crown and C. A.

Perforated 14.

5c lilac on blue

**CAYMAN ISLANDS.**—The *Monthly Journal* lists the following values of the current series on the new paper.

*Adhesive stamps.*

Watermarked Multiple Crown and C. A.

Perforated 14.

$\frac{1}{2}$ p green

2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p ultramarine

6p brown

1s orange

**CEYLON.**—The *Monthly Journal* says that the 2r 25c has appeared on the new paper.

*Adhesive stamp.*

Watermarked Multiple Crown and C. A.

Perforated 14.

2r 25c brown and green

**CURACAO.**—Some of our contemporaries announce the appearance of two high value stamps from this colony.

*Adhesive stamps.*

Perforated.

1 $\frac{1}{2}$ g red-brown

2 $\frac{1}{2}$ g greenish-blue

**CYPRUS.**—Several of our contemporaries announce the issue of another of the current set on the new paper.

*Adhesive stamp.*

Watermarked Multiple Crown and C. A.

Perforated 14.

12p orange-brown and black

**ELOBEY, ANNABON AND CORISCO.**—Several of our contemporaries announce the appearance of the set dated 1905. It is of the regular type.

*Adhesive stamps.*

1c rose

2c deep violet

3c black

4c red

5c deep green  
 10c blue-green  
 15c violet  
 25c carmine  
 50c orange  
 75c blue  
 1p brown-red.  
 2p deep brown  
 3p vermillion  
 4p dark orange  
 5p bronze-green  
 10p carmine

**FALKLAND ISLANDS.**—*Even's Weekly Stamp News* says that another value of the current series has been issued.

*Adhesive stamp.*

Watermarked Multiple Crown and C. A.

Perforated 14.

2p magenta (?)

**FERNANDO POO.**—The annual set for this Colony, of the current type but dated 1905, has made its appearance.

*Adhesive stamps.*

1c deep violet  
 2c black  
 3c vermillion  
 4c deep green  
 5c blue-green  
 10c violet  
 15c carmine  
 25c orange  
 50c green  
 75c brown-red  
 1p deep bistre  
 2p rose  
 3p deep brown  
 4p bronze-green  
 5p carmine  
 10p deep blue

**FRANCE.**—*Offices in the Turkish Empire.*—The *Monthly Journal* says: "A correspondent at Beirut tells us that on January 17th, 1900 copies of the 15c., *pale red*, of 1902,

were altered in value to 1 piastre. The excuse given was that all other denominations had been sold out, and it was stated that these provisionals were affixed to letters in the Post Office and that none were sold to the public, their use extending over a period of about nine days. Our correspondent adds: "It is generally understood in town however, that the greater number of these stamps found their way into the possession of the postmaster and his clerks, and they are now being offered for sale at fifty francs each." It is for collectors to decide what they will do in cases of this kind; our own opinion is, that when stamps are not sold to the public, but are affixed in the office, they may be regarded as upon the same level as handstamps similarly used to denote postage paid in cash.

We have since seen a copy of the stamp, which was sent to our publishers by another correspondent, who had secured a little stock, for which he requested an offer! The overprint is "1 Piastre—Beyrouth", in two lines."

*Adhesive stamp.*

Perforated 14x13½.

Black surcharge.

1pi on 15c red

**INDIA.**—Several of our contemporaries say that twenty-four millions of the half anna stamp of the King's head series have been surcharged with a large 1 of the same type as that previously applied to the Queen's head stamp.

*Adhesive stamp.*

Watermarked Star.

Perforated 14.

Black surcharge.

1a on ½a green

**Chamba.**—The current six annas Indian stamp, King's head type, has been overprinted for use here.



*Adhesive stamp.*

Watermarked Star.

Perforated 14.

Black surcharge.

6a bistre

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**MALTA.**—*Even's Weekly Stamp News* lists two more values of the current set upon the new paper.

*Adhesive stamps.*

Watermarked Multiple Crown and C. A.

Perforated 14.

2p gray and red-violet

4½p black-brown

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**NICARAGUA.**—*Dept. of Zelaya.*—

An entirely new set has made its appearance for this Department. This time the surcharge is printed, not handstamped, in the same curious ink which seems to be the vogue in this country lately. Like other recent surcharges, it is printed in blocks of twenty-five and on numbers 22 and 23 of each block the "O" of "DPTO" is defective so that there is either no sign of it at all or merely a slight trace of it, thus making it appear as if the word was "DPT."

The stamps used for surcharging are all of the type of 1900, though three of them, the 10c, the 5 on 10c and the 15c on 10c, are the lithographed stamp of 1902.

*Adhesive stamps.*

Perforated 12.

Bronze-blue surcharge.

1c red-violet

2c vermilion

5c on 10c violet

10c violet

15c on 10c violet

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**RIO DE ORO.**—A set of stamps, of the same type as Fernando Poo, etc., has been issued for this Spanish colony, which is located in Western Africa.

*Adhesive stamps.*

Perforated.

1c green

2c rose

3c bronze-green

4c deep bistre

5c vermilion

10c deep brown

15c brown-red

25c blue

50c deep green

75c violet

1p red-brown

2p orange

3p lilac

4p blue-green

5p clear blue

10p red

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**ST. LUCIA.**—Several of our contemporaries note another value upon the new paper.

*Adhesive stamp.*

Watermarked Multiple Crown and C. A.

Perforated 14.

1s green and black

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**SIERRA LEONE.**—Several of our contemporaries report the appearance of the first stamp of the current set upon the new paper.

*Adhesive stamp.*

Watermarked Multiple Crown and C. A.

Perforated 14.

½p violet and green

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**SPAIN.**—*Le Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste* says that the 40c of the current type has appeared in a new color.

*Adhesive stamp.*

Perforated 14.

40c rose

**SPANISH GUINEA.**—A new set, of the current type but dated 1905, has made its appearance.

*Adhesive stamps.*

Perforated.

1c black  
2c green  
3c carmine  
4c bronze-green  
5c deep bistre  
10c red  
15c deep brown  
25c brown-red  
50c blue  
75c orange  
1p carmine  
2p violet  
3p blue-green  
4p vermillion  
10p blue

**TASMANIA.**—Miss Amy L. Swift informs us that she has had a three pence value of the Railway Newspaper stamp in her possession since 1903. It is of the regular type, our RN1.

*Railway Newspaper Stamp.*

Unwatermarked.

Perforated 12.

3p yellow.

**URUGUAY.**—We learn through some of our contemporaries that three other values of the locally printed set have made their appearance.

*Adhesive stamps.*

Perforated 11½.

10c dark lilac

20c dark green

25c pale brown

**VENEZUELA.**—We have received, in the ordinary course of business, a letter from this country the postage on which is prepaid with a diagonal half of the one bolivar stamp of 1904.

*Adhesive stamp.*

Perforated 12.

50c plum (½ of 1b)



## Birmingham Philatelic Society.

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Feb. 2nd.—The Railway and Railway Letter Stamps of the British Isles by Capt. N. W. K. Connolly.

The paper and the display of this wonderfully complete and unique collection certainly surprised all the members, not only by the great variety of design, the large number of minor railways which few knew about, but by immense number of minor varieties. In the matter of plating in some cases it seemed quite as difficult as plating Sydney Views or laureateds and, although they are not as popular as postage stamps, there is no doubt they are very interesting to those who choose this pleasant by-path from the main hobby.

Captain Connolly received a hearty vote of thanks for his paper and display, also for a small collection of all the chief types of Railway and Railway Letter stamps for the Collection of the Society.

Feb. 23d.—270 Lots belonging to the members were sold by auction at remunerative prices.

March 2nd.—Roumania—W. H. Grindall.

By gathering together all that had been previously written on the subject, by personal research and by tracings showing the shape of the various sheets with 2 or 4 stamps omitted from the corner and left blank in the printing, Mr. Grindall gave an excellent paper. It was exhaustive and was well supplemented by his collection and those of the Society, and Messrs. Peck, Bamwell, Deakin, Usher and Walker. The collection of the Rev. W. N. Usher was especially fine, containing practically everything from 1858 to the present time used and unused, large number of the handstamped varieties one stamp overlapping another, complete mint sheets of the 1862 some showing the arrangement of the types when printed from plates, corner blocks of subsequent issues showing the blank spaces and superb ranges of shade. His notes were a good supplement to the previous paper and his remarks showed how rarities of type and shade can be picked up from exchange packets if one will only specialise sufficiently in a country to really know the rare varieties and oddities. A very hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Grindall for giving the paper and to the Rev. W. N. Usher for the display of his collection and their replies brought a very successful evening to a close.

At the above meetings the following were unanimously elected members.—Messrs. V. Furminieux, T. J. W. Smith, T. G. Smith, H. J. Holmes, C. B. Purden, O. Zander, E. Lodge, W. Gough, S. Bridge, J. M. Searle.

Votes of thanks were also entered on the minutes to the following donors to the Collection.—Mrs. Noel Lake, Rev. W. N. Usher, Messrs. C. M. McNaughton, P. Guerin.

Mr. W. Pimm's display will be on Thursday April 13th not 14th as on programme.

## The Collectors Club.

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The 118th meeting of the Board of Governors was held at the Club house on Monday evening, March 13th, 1905.

Present: Messrs. Dewing, Von Hodenberg, Luff, Morgenthau, Rich, Scott and Perrin.

In the absence of both the President and Vice-President, the meeting was called to order at 8.45 P. M. with Mr. Scott in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The resignation of Mr. Andreini from the Board was received and read, and was accepted with regrets.

Mr. Bruner, the present Vice-President, was unanimously elected to the Presidency of the Club, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of our former President.

The Treasurer's report, showing a cash balance in bank of \$827.71, was approved as read.

The report of the House Committee was read and received.

The Committee on Rooms reported that the Club's new quarters were being arranged, and that the Club would be in its new quarters about March 20th.

The application for membership of Messrs. J. Brace Chittenden and Lloyd Taylor having been posted the required length of time were ballotted upon, and they were declared unanimously elected subscribing members of the Club.

Adjourned at 10 P. M.

ALBERT PERRIN, *Secretary.*

